



TITLE:

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# Interior Hölder continuity for viscosity solutions of fully nonlinear second-order uniformly elliptic PDEs with measurable ingredients

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## 1 Introduction

In this note, we obtain the Harnack inequality for “weak” solutions of the following fully nonlinear, second-order, uniformly elliptic partial differential equations (PDEs for short):

$$F(x, Du, D^2u) = f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (1)$$

where,  $\Omega \subset \mathbf{R}^n$  is a bounded domain with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$  for simplicity, and  $F : \Omega \times \mathbf{R}^n \times S^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  are given functions. Here,  $S^n$  denotes the set of all symmetric  $n \times n$  real matrices with the standard ordering.

It is well-known that the **Harnack inequality implies the Hölder continuity of solutions**. We note that this yields an equi-continuity of solutions since the Hölder exponent and the Hölder semi-norm depend only on the space-dimension, the uniform ellipticity constants and given data in (1).

This research is jointly done with N. S. Trudinger.

## 1.1 Hypotheses

In our mind, we consider the case when the coefficients of the second derivatives are merely measurable, and inhomogeneous term belongs to only  $L^n(\Omega)$ . Moreover, we allow  $F$  to have the quadratic growth in the first derivatives.

However,  $F$  is supposed to be uniformly elliptic in the second derivatives.

Thus, our hypotheses are as follows:

### Hypotheses

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (A1) & x \rightarrow F(x, p, X); \text{ measurable} & (p \in \mathbf{R}^n, X \in S^n), \\ (A2) & |F(x, p, 0)| \leq \gamma |p|^2 & (x \in \Omega, p \in \mathbf{R}^n), \\ (A3) & \mathcal{P}^-(X - Y) \leq F(x, p, X) - F(x, p, Y) \leq \mathcal{P}^+(X - Y) & (x \in \Omega, p \in \mathbf{R}^n, X, Y \in S^n), \\ (A4) & f \in L^n(\Omega), \end{array} \right.$$

where, in (A2),  $\gamma > 0$  is a constant, and in (A3),  $\mathcal{P}^\pm : S^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  are the so-called **Pucci operators** defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}^+(X) &= \max\{-\text{trace}(AX) \mid \lambda I \leq A \leq \Lambda I\}, \\ \mathcal{P}^-(X) &= \min\{-\text{trace}(AX) \mid \lambda I \leq A \leq \Lambda I\}. \end{aligned}$$

In what follows, the above constants for uniform ellipticity  $0 < \lambda \leq \Lambda$  are fixed.

Under these hypotheses, we note that if  $u$  is a subsolution (resp., supersolution) of (1), then it is a subsolution (resp., supersolution) of

$$\mathcal{P}^-(D^2u) - \gamma |Du|^2 \leq f \quad (\text{resp., } \mathcal{P}^+(D^2u) + \gamma |Du|^2 \geq f).$$

We will give the definition of sub- and supersolutions of (1) later.

It is immediate to see that the following properties on  $\mathcal{P}^\pm$  hold true.

### Proposition

- (1)  $\mathcal{P}^-(X) \leq \mathcal{P}^+(X)$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^+(X) = -\mathcal{P}^-(-X)$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^\pm(\alpha X) = \alpha \mathcal{P}^\pm(X)$  ( $\alpha \geq 0$ )
- (2)  $\mathcal{P}^-(X) + \mathcal{P}^-(Y) \leq \mathcal{P}^-(X + Y) \leq \mathcal{P}^+(X) + \mathcal{P}^-(Y) \leq \mathcal{P}^+(X + Y) \leq \mathcal{P}^+(X) + \mathcal{P}^+(Y)$

**Remark】** In view of (1) and (2) in the above, it is easy to see that  $\mathcal{P}^+$  is convex, and  $\mathcal{P}^-$  is concave.

We shall give a typical example for which (A1) – (A3) are satisfied.

Example»

$$-\sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}(x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + b(x) |Du|^2 = f(x) \quad (2)$$

Here,  $A(\cdot) = (a_{ij}(\cdot))$ ,  $b(\cdot)$  and  $f(\cdot)$  satisfy the following:

$$\lambda |\xi|^2 \leq \langle A(x)\xi, \xi \rangle \leq \Lambda |\xi|^2 \quad (\xi \in \mathbf{R}^n), \quad \sup_{x \in \Omega} |b(x)| \leq \gamma, \quad f \in L^n(\Omega),$$

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the standard inner product in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ .

This kind of PDEs arises in the risk-sensitive stochastic control and certain PDEs derived from large deviation problems.

## 1.2 Known results

Let us mention known-results in case when the linear growth condition is supposed in place of (A2);

$$|F(x, p, O)| \leq \gamma |p| \quad (x \in \Omega, p \in \mathbf{R}^n)$$

When  $F$  is merely measurable in  $x$ :

Krylov-Safonov [21] (1979) first obtained the Hölder continuity of solutions by a probabilistic approach. Trudinger [25] (1980) showed the same result as in [21] only by tools from PDEs. We note that in these results, solutions means “strong” solutions; they belong to  $W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$  and satisfy the PDEs almost everywhere sense.

Recently, Caffarelli [3] (1989) showed the Hölder continuity of the “standard” viscosity solutions when  $f$  is continuous but the estimate depends only on  $\|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)}$ . The reason why  $f$  is supposed to be continuous there is that Alexandroff-Bakelman-Pucci (ABP for short) maximum principle holds for the standard viscosity solutions only when  $f \in C(\Omega)$ . However, utilizing an approximation technique, Caffarelli-Crandall-Kocan-Świąch [4] (1996) proved the ABP maximum principle when  $f \in L^n(\Omega)$  for slightly restricted viscosity solutions.

**In this article, we adapt the notion in [4],  $L^p$ -viscosity solutions, but, under the assumption  $f \in C(\Omega)$ , it is easy to check that our results below are still valid for the standard viscosity solutions.**

For higher regularity of solutions, Caffarelli [3] obtained that solutions belong to  $W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$  when “the oscillation of coefficients for the second derivatives are small in  $L^n$ -sense”. However, in general, we cannot expect that solutions are in  $W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$ . Because, if we could get the higher regularity, then the solution would be the unique strong solution, which contradicts the fact that there exists a counter-example for uniqueness of viscosity solutions

by Nadirashvili [22](1997). We also refer to Safonov [23](1999), which gives an alternative proof of [22] by a PDE approach.

When  $F$  is continuous in  $x$ :

Here, we only mention  $C^{1,\alpha}$  ( $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ) estimates for viscosity solutions by Trudinger [26] and [27].

### 1.3 Two ways to derive Harnack inequality

We recall the meaning that the **Harnack inequality holds**; For any  $\Omega' \subset \subset \Omega$ , there exists a constant  $C = C(\text{dist}(\Omega', \partial\Omega) > 0)$  such that for any nonnegative solutions of (1), it follows that

$$\max_{\overline{\Omega'}} \leq C \left( \min_{\overline{\Omega'}} u + \text{diam}(\Omega') \|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)} \right)$$

**Remark** By the standard scaling argument and translation, we only have to show the above inequality when  $\Omega'$  is a unit cube or a ball.

We shall use the following symbols:

$$B_r := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |y| \leq r\}, \quad B_r(x) := B_r + x, \quad Q_r := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |y_k| \leq r/2\}, \quad Q_r(x) := Q_r + x$$

**Remark** We notice the following inclusions hold.

$$Q_1 \subset B_{\sqrt{n}/2} \subset Q_{\sqrt{n}}.$$

« difference of proofs between Trudinger's and Caffarelli's »

Let us formally explain the difference of proofs between Trudinger's and Caffarelli's.

Trudinger's proof: We first derive the weak Harnack inequality for nonnegative **super-solutions** of (1). That is to find  $\kappa > 0$  (possibly smaller than 1) and  $C > 0$  such that

$$\|u\|_{L^\kappa(Q_1)} \leq C \left( \min_{Q_1} u + \|f\|_{L^n(Q_R)} \right)$$

for some  $R > 1$  which only depends on  $n$ .

We remark that we obtain this estimate on cubes in place of balls since we essentially use Calderón-Zygmund's cube-decomposition lemma.

Next, we show the local maximum principle for nonnegative **subsolutions**; That is to find  $C > 0$  such that with the above  $\kappa > 0$  in the weak Harnack inequality for some  $R > 1$ ,

$$\max_{B_1} u \leq C \left( \|u\|_{L^\kappa(B_R)} + \|f\|_{L^n(B_R)} \right)$$

Combining these, it is easy to show the Harnack inequality.

Caffarelli's proof: We use the (essentially) same argument as that of Trudinger to get the weak Harnack inequality for nonnegative **supersolutions**.

Next, for nonnegative **solutions**, we get a contradiction if we suppose that the Harnack inequality fails. To this end, we adapt a **blow-up argument**. We note that we need properties of subsolutions and supersolutions.

## 2 Main results

Our aim is to show that any solutions of (1), for which assumptions (A1) – (A3) are fulfilled, have the same equi-Hölder continuity. However, without further hypothesis, we cannot expect to prove such a result.

Let us present an example to show that we need further hypothesis.

«Example» Let  $n = 1$  and  $\Omega = (0, 1)$ . Set  $u(x) = Ax$  ( $A \geq 0$ ). Notice that  $-\Delta u = 0$  in  $(0, 1)$ . By setting  $v(x) = e^{u(x)}$ , it follows that

$$-\Delta v + e^{-Ax}|Dv|^2 = 0 \quad \text{in } (0, 1)$$

Since  $u \geq 0$  in  $(0, 1)$ , the “coefficient” in front of  $|Dv|^2$  is bounded for any  $A \geq 0$ . However, for any fixed small  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ , it is impossible to find  $C = C(\varepsilon) > 0$  independent of  $A > 0$  such that

$$\max_{x \in [\varepsilon, 1-\varepsilon]} v(x) \leq C \min_{x \in [\varepsilon, 1-\varepsilon]} v(x).$$

We notice that  $v$  is not “equi”-Hölder continuous when  $A \rightarrow \infty$ .

As will be seen, since our estimate depends only on  $\lambda, \Lambda, n$  and  $\gamma$  in the hypotheses, this example explains why we need the further hypothesis on  $L^\infty$ -bound for solutions.

Now, we shall recall the definitions of viscosity solutions.

Throughout this article, we suppose that

$$(A5) \quad p > \frac{n}{2}$$

Under (A5), it is well-known that any function in  $W_{loc}^{2,p}(\Omega)$  has second-order derivatives almost all  $x \in \Omega$ .

### Definition

(1) We call  $u \in C(\Omega)$  an  $L^p$ -viscosity subsolution (**subsolution** for short) of (1) if for any  $\phi \in W_{loc}^{2,p}(\Omega)$ , it follows that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{y \in B_\varepsilon(x)} \{F(y, D\phi(y), D^2\phi(y)) - f(y)\} \leq 0$$

provided  $u - \phi$  attains its maximum at  $x \in \Omega$ .

(2) We call  $u \in C(\Omega)$  an  $L^p$ -viscosity supersolution (**supersolution** for short) of (1) if for any  $\phi \in W_{loc}^{2,p}(\Omega)$ , it follows that

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{y \in B_\varepsilon(x)} \{F(y, D\phi(y), D^2\phi(y)) - f(y)\} \geq 0$$

provided  $u - \phi$  attains its minimum at  $x \in \Omega$ .

(3) We call  $u \in C(\Omega)$  an  $L^p$ -viscosity solution (**solution** for short) of (1) if it is an  $L^p$ -viscosity sub- and supersolution of (1).

**Remark** We call  $u$  a  $C$ -viscosity (sub-, super-) solution if the above properties hold by replacing  $W_{loc}^{2,p}(\Omega)$  by  $C^2(\Omega)$ . Since  $L^p$ -viscosity solutions are more restrictive than  $C$ -viscosity solutions,  $L^p$ -viscosity solutions are, indeed,  $C$ -viscosity solutions.

We remark that the opposite inclusion is true when  $F$  and  $f$  are continuous. See [4] for this fact.

We recall the notion of strong solutions here:

### Definition

We call  $u \in C(\Omega)$  a strong subsolution (resp., supersolution) of (1) if  $Du(x)$  and  $D^2u(x)$  exist for almost all  $x \in \Omega$  and

$$F(x, Du(x), D^2u(x)) - f(x) \leq 0 \quad (\text{resp., } \geq 0) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Omega.$$

We also call  $u \in C(\Omega)$  a strong solution of (1) if it is a strong sub- and supersolution of (1).

In what follows, we mainly discuss about  $L^n$ -viscosity solutions.

Our main result is as follows:

### Theorem

<p>For any <math>N &gt; 0</math> and a subdomain <math>\Omega' \subset \subset \Omega</math>, if a solution <math>u</math> satisfies that <math> u  \leq N</math> in <math>\Omega</math>, then there is <math>C &gt; 0</math> such that</p> $\max_{B_r(x)} u \leq C \left( \min_{B_r(x)} u + r \ f\ _{L^n(\Omega)} \right) \quad (\text{for } x \in \Omega' \text{ and small } r > 0)$
--

**Remark** This result does not affect the counter-example.

We shall give a sufficient condition for (2) in the above example under zero-Dirichlet condition on  $\partial\Omega$  for which the  $L^\infty$ -estimate is a priori obtained.

«Example»

$$0 \leq b(x) \leq \gamma \quad \text{and} \quad f \geq 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

In fact, in this case, since 0 is a classical subsolution of (2), in view of the comparison principle between a strong subsolution and an  $L^n$ -supersolution in [18], we obtain that the  $L^n$ -solution  $u$  of (2) is nonnegative.

To obtain the upper bound, we find a strong supersolution  $w \in C(\bar{\Omega}) \cap W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$  of

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}^-(D^2w) \geq f^+ & \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \\ w = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ 0 \leq w \leq C\|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)} & \text{in } \Omega. \end{cases}$$

See the existence of strong solutions below for the proof of the existence of  $w$ . Since  $w$  is a strong supersolution of (2), the comparison principle again yields that

$$u \leq w \leq C\|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)} \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

We modify the proof of Trudinger's in [27]. In fact, if we directly apply Caffarelli's blow-up argument, we can only succeed to prove the assertion in the case when the growth-order in  $p$ -variables is strictly less than 2. See [18] for this approach.

«Idea of proof»

- (1) Use two different **transformations** to subsolutions and supersolutions, respectively, to simplify the original PDEs.
- (2) Show the local maximum principle for transformed subsolutions and the weak Harnack inequality for transformed supersolutions.

## 2.1 Preliminaries

Two key tools are the ABP maximum principle and the existence of strong solutions.

To this end, we introduce the **upper contact set**  $\Gamma_\Omega[u]$  for  $u \in C(\Omega)$ ;

$$\Gamma_\Omega[u] = \{x \in \Omega \mid \exists p \in \mathbf{R}^n \text{ such that } u(y) \leq u(x) + \langle p, y - x \rangle \text{ for } \forall y \in \Omega\}$$

«Remark » Roughly speaking, it holds that “ $D^2u \leq 0$ ” on  $\Gamma_\Omega[u]$ .

ABP maximum principle (Proposition 3.3 in [4])



Assume  $f \in L^n(\Omega)$ . There exists  $C = C(\lambda, \Lambda, n, \Omega) > 0$  such that if  $u \in C(\Omega)$  is an  $L^n$ -subsolution (resp.,  $L^n$ -supersolution) of

$$\mathcal{P}^+(D^2u) \leq f \quad (\text{resp., } \mathcal{P}^+(D^2u) \geq f),$$

then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\overline{\Omega}} u^+ &\leq \max_{\partial\Omega} u^+ + C \text{diam}(\Omega) \|f^+\|_{L^n(\Gamma_\Omega[u^+])} \\ (\text{resp., } \max_{\overline{\Omega}} u^- &\leq \max_{\partial\Omega} u^- + C \text{diam}(\Omega) \|f^-\|_{L^n(\Gamma_\Omega[u^-])}) \end{aligned}$$

**Remark】** (i) Here, we have used the notations:

$$u^+ := \max\{u, 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad u^- := \max\{-u, 0\}$$

(ii) If  $\Omega$  is a ball or a cube, then  $C > 0$  does not depend on  $\Omega$ .

(iii) We do not know if this assertion holds true for  $C$ -solutions unless  $f$  is continuous.

(iv) The idea of proof is first to approximate  $f$  by smooth functions (see the proposition below for an existence result when  $f$  is smooth), and then, to approximate “ $u$ ” by the sup-convolution (resp., inf-convolution) and the standard mollifier to apply the ABP maximum principle for strong solutions.

#### Existence of strong solutions (Lemma 3.1 in [4])

There exists  $C > 0$  such that for  $f \in L^n(\Omega)$ , there is an  $L^n$ -strong subsolution  $u \in C(\overline{\Omega}) \cap W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$  of

$$\begin{cases} (1) & \mathcal{P}^+(D^2u) \leq f & \text{a.e. in } \Omega, \\ (2) & u = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ (3) & \|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \text{diam}(\Omega) \|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)} \end{cases}$$

**Remark】** (i) Here, the constant  $C > 0$  is the one for the ABP maximum principle. We may have the corresponding result for  $\mathcal{P}^-(D^2u) \geq f$ .

(ii) The sketch of proof is as follows: Choose  $f_k \in C^\infty(\overline{\Omega})$  such that  $\|f - f_k\|_{L^n(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0$ , as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $\mathcal{P}^+$  is convex and independent of  $x$ , in view of [12], we know the existence of classical solutions  $u_k$  of

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}^+(D^2u_k) = f_k & \text{in } \Omega, \\ u_k = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

Following the argument in [4], we can get a uniform estimate for  $\|u_k\|_{W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)}$  and the uniform convergence to some  $u \in C(\overline{\Omega})$ . We remark that the limit function  $u$  only satisfies (1) since we may only know  $u_k \rightarrow u$  weakly in  $W_{loc}^{2,n}(\Omega)$ .

## 2.2 Local maximum principle

Setting

$$w(x) = e^{\frac{\gamma u(x)}{\lambda}} - 1,$$

we observe that  $w$  is a nonnegative subsolution of

$$\mathcal{P}^-(D^2 w) \leq \underline{f} := \frac{e^{\frac{\gamma u}{\lambda}} \gamma f}{\lambda}.$$

Since we suppose that  $0 \leq u \leq N$ , we do not have to worry about the right hand side of the above.

### Local maximum principle

Fix any  $p > 0$  and  $\Omega' \subset \subset \Omega$ . There exists  $C = C(\lambda, \Lambda, n, \text{dist}(\Omega', \partial\Omega), p) > 0$  such that

$$\max_{Q_r(x)} w \leq C \left( \|w\|_{L^p(Q_{2\sqrt{n}r}(x))} + r \| \underline{f} \|_{L^n(Q_{2\sqrt{n}r}(x))} \right)$$

for  $x \in \Omega'$  and small  $r > 0$ .

For simplicity, we shall obtain the assertion when  $x = 0$  and  $r = 1$ . Let us write  $B$  for  $B_{\sqrt{n}}^o$  for simplicity.

We first note that it is sufficient to show the case when  $\underline{f} = 0$ . Indeed, letting  $\psi \in C(\overline{B}) \cap W_{loc}^{2,n}(B)$  be the strong subsolution of

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}^+(D^2 \psi) \leq -\underline{f} & \text{a.e. in } B, \\ \psi = 0 & \text{on } \partial B, \\ \|\psi\|_{L^\infty(B)} \leq C \|\underline{f}\|_{L^n(B)}, \end{cases}$$

we need to show the assertion for  $w + \psi$ , which is an  $L^n$ -subsolution of

$$\mathcal{P}^-(D^2(w + \psi)) \leq 0.$$

We notice here that even for  $p \in (0, 1)$ , we have the following inequality in place of the triangle inequality for  $p \geq 1$ :

$$\|f_1 + f_2\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq 2^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \|f_1\|_{L^p(\Omega)} + \|f_2\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \right) \quad \text{for } f_1, f_2 \in L^p(\Omega).$$

Next, we introduce the following “cut-off” function:

$$\eta(|x|) = (n - |x|^2)^{\frac{2n}{p}}.$$

It is not hard to verify that  $W(x) := \eta(x)w(x)$  satisfies

$$\mathcal{P}^-(D^2W) \leq C \left( \eta^{-\frac{p}{2n}} |DW| + \eta^{-\frac{p}{n}} W \right).$$

Since an easy geometrical observation implies that

$$|DW(x)| \leq \frac{W(x)}{\sqrt{n} - |x|} \leq C \eta^{-\frac{p}{n}}(x) W(x) \quad \text{for } x \in \Gamma_B[W^+].$$

Thus, since  $Q_1 \subset B_{\sqrt{n}}$ , the ABP maximum principle yields that

$$\max_{Q_1} w \leq C \max_B W^+ \leq C \|\eta^{-\frac{p}{n}} W^+\|_{L^n(B)} \leq \frac{1}{2} \max_{B_1} W^+ + C \|w\|_{L^p(B)}.$$

More precisely, we first regularize  $w$  by the sup-convolution  $w^\varepsilon$  of it. Then, we get the estimate in a smaller ball  $B_r$ , where  $r = r(\varepsilon) \rightarrow \sqrt{n}$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

**Remark** ] To deduce PDEs to homogenous ones, we need to work with  $L^n$ -solutions instead of  $C$ -solutions. In fact, we only know that the above  $\psi$  belongs to  $W_{loc}^{2,n}(B)$  but  $C^2(B)$ .

### 2.3 Weak Harnack inequality

We shall adapt Caffarelli's argument in [2] to show the weak Harnack inequality for supersolutions while in [19] we adapt the argument in [25].

We first use the following transformation for  $u$ :

$$v(x) = 1 - e^{-\frac{\gamma u(x)}{\lambda}}$$

It is easy to see that  $v$  is a supersolution of

$$\mathcal{P}^+(D^2v) \geq \bar{f} := \frac{e^{-\frac{\gamma u}{\lambda}} \gamma f}{\lambda}.$$

#### Weak Harnack inequality

Fix  $\Omega' \subset \Omega$ . There exist  $p > 0$  and  $C = C(\lambda, \Lambda, n, \Omega') > 0$  such that

$$\|v\|_{L^p(Q_r(x))} \leq C \left( \min_{Q_r(x)} v + r \|\bar{f}\|_{L^n(Q_{2\sqrt{n}r}(x))} \right)$$

for  $x \in \Omega'$  and small  $r > 0$ .

As before, we may suppose that  $x = 0$  and  $r = 1$ .

Again, considering  $v + \psi$  instead of  $\psi$ , where  $\psi \in C(\overline{B_1}) \cap W_{loc}^{2,n}(B_1)$  is a supersolution of

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}^-(D^2\psi) \geq \overline{f}^- & \text{a.e. in } B_1^o, \\ \psi = 0 & \text{on } \partial B_1, \\ 0 \leq \psi \leq C\|\overline{f}\|_{L^n(B_1)} & \text{in } B_1, \end{cases}$$

we only need to consider the case when  $\overline{f} = 0$ .

Moreover, by considering  $v(x)/(\min_{Q_1} v + \varepsilon)$  ( $\varepsilon > 0$ ) instead of  $v$ , it is sufficient to find  $p > 0$  such that

$$\|v\|_{L^q(Q_1)} \leq C.$$

To this end, we need the following decay estimate of the distribution of  $v$ ;

$$|\{x \in Q_1 \mid v(x) > t\}| \leq Ct^{-\tau} \quad (t \geq 0)$$

Here,  $C > 0$  and  $\tau > 0$  are independent of  $v$ . Thus, it suffices to show the following assertion for any integer  $k \geq 1$ :

$$|\{x \in Q_1 \mid v(x) > M^k\}| \leq \mu^k,$$

where  $M > 1$  and  $\mu \in (0, 1)$  are independent of  $k$ .

For the case of  $k = 1$ , the above estimate is a direct consequence of the ABP maximum principle.

To show any  $k \geq 1$ , we argue by contradiction: Suppose that the assertion for  $k$  holds but fails for  $k + 1$ . To get a contradiction, we use the cube-decomposition lemma by Calderón-Zygmund. See [2] for it.

## 2.4 Concluding remarks

In [19], following Escauriaza in [10], we give an extension to the case when  $f$  belongs to a slightly larger space,  $L^p(\Omega)$  for some  $p \in (n/2, n)$ .

In [19], we also mention the Hölder estimate near the boundary, which ensures the global Hölder estimate. In a future work, we will discuss on higher regularity for solutions of (1) utilizing this global Hölder estimate.

**Open questions** ] There must be so many open questions (at least to me) in this direction. We only list some of them:

- (1) Harnack inequality near the boundary when  $f \in L^p(\Omega)$  for  $p \in (n/2, n)$ . (i.e. Fabes-Stroock type formula near  $\partial\Omega$ .)
- (2) Relation between Caffarelli's class and the VMO space for higher regularity.
- (3) Sufficient conditions to show the existence of solutions of (1) in comparison to Nagumo

CONCLUSION.

- (4) More delicate sufficient conditions to derive  $L^\infty(\Omega)$  estimate than that mentioned here. (proposed by Prof. H. Nagai)
- (5) More than quadratic nonlinearity. (proposed by Prof. M. Otani)
- etc.

Though some of papers listed below are not referred here, for the interested readers, we give a list of related papers on  $L^p$ -solutions for fully nonlinear PDEs.

## References

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